

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability of claims 15 and 30. These claims have been rewritten to be in independent form, and they should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 30, 34, 46, 48 and 49 were rejected under § 102(a) as being anticipated by Jannesen, et al. (U.S. 6,142,863).

Jannesen, et al. disclose a device for processing and skinning poultry carcasses. As shown in the drawings of Sheet 7 of Jannesen, et al., the carcasses are mounted on a carrier 6 and are moved with the carrier adjacent various skin removal rollers, such as rollers 148 and 150 in Fig. 13B and rollers 152 in Fig. 13C.

Jannesen, et al. do not disclose a Skinner that is movable in the supply direction for skinning the carcasses, and the Skinner being configured for urging the rollers into engagement with the skin of the carcasses as the carcasses are moved on a support along the supply direction and as the Skinner moves in the supply direction, and the device for discharging the skin from the rollers that includes means for moving the teeth of one roller longitudinally past the teeth of the other roller.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 31, 34-45, 50, 51 and 56 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (U.S. 5,167,569).

Davis does not disclose the features of these claims. For example, Davis does not disclose a Skinner configured for urging the skin gripping device laterally toward engagement with the carcasses and vertically along the carcass as the skin and carcass move in the supply direction, and the Skinner including a rack and pinion for rotating the rollers in response to the Skinner moving along the carcasses.

Claims 33, 55 and 57 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson, et al. (U.S. 3,541,637).

Robinson, et al. do not have a pair of toothed rollers with the first one of the toothed rollers movable along its longitudinal axis with respect to the other toothed roller a distance for separating the teeth of the rollers from each other, and a skin ejection plate defining an opening surrounding and movable with respect to and along the axis of one of said toothed rollers as the first one of said rollers moves along its longitudinal axis such that the skin ejection plate removes the skin from the gripping means.

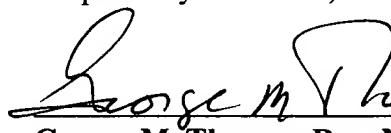
Applicant has cancelled the majority of the claims from the application in an effort to simplify the issues at hand. The cancellation of the claims should not be considered as an acknowledgement of unpatentability of the inventions described therein, but taken as a means for simplifying and reducing the issues pending in the application.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments, and for at least the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, avoided and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims, 15, 30, 31 and 33 should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is hereby requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference could lead to solving remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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